

Kent

FAVERSHAM PORT SANITARY
AUTHORITY.
REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR 1904.

During the past year no case of infectious disease of any kind has been notified to me as occurring in the Port of Faversham, although London has not been quite free from small pox, and the amount of barge traffic between here and the Thames is very great. It is fortunate that this has been so, as the Authority is practically without Hospital accommodation. The old floating hospital is in bad condition and under any circumstances could not now be made ready for the reception and treatment of patients at Faversham, much less for those at Sittingbourne and Milton. As the Port cases are very few and far between, it would be cheaper to arrange for their reception into a land hospital if it could be so managed than to make provision for a new building for them.

Several cases of sickness on ship board have been reported to me, and have been visited by me, but none have proved to be serious. One bad accident occurred in Faversham Creek. The patient was removed to the Cottage Hospital and eventually recovered.

The number of vessels arriving at the Port of Faversham during the year is 9,835. This includes the creeks at Faversham, Milton, Conyer and Oare. Of this number 14 were from foreign ports. The number of inspections made during the year was

	Faver- sham.	Oare.	Milton,	Conyer.	Total.
By Inspector	921	687	1654	292	3554
By Medical Officer	59	36	16	13	124

Several of these were loaded with manure and many with breeze and London refuse. In such cases care has been taken to prevent nuisance to the crew when living on board and also as to unloading and cleansing the barges afterwards. Matters of cabin lighting and ventilation and also water storage have been given due attention.

The foreign trade of the port consists chiefly of timber-laden ships arriving from Baltic ports, and is not large in amount. No causes of complaint have arisen among them. The larger coasting trade consists of railway material and coal from British ports. There is a large and continual traffic to London and Thames and Essex ports, carried on by barges, almost all leaving with bricks, and returning with manure or breeze.

Regular inspection has been carried on throughout the district as shewn by the statistics and every attempt made to discover and remedy sanitary defects.

CHARLES J. EVERS, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Faversham,
January 17th, 1905.

